

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 and 19-32 are pending. Claims 1-28 have been amended. Claims 29-32 have been added. Claim 18 has been cancelled. Applicants request reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112

The Examiner has rejected Claims 20-28 as being indefinite. Claim 20 has been amended and the allegedly indefinite language has been deleted. Thus, Claims 20-28 are in condition for allowance.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) and 102(b):

Claims 1-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being fully met by either of Tsai or Tsurumi et al. Claims 1-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being fully met by Contois. Applicants respectfully overcome the rejections as follows.

Claim 1 sets forth a system for searching music, which includes a plurality of feature vectors and an inferential engine which compares the plurality of feature vectors to user entered search parameters to generate a playlist for the user.

Claim 15 sets forth a user interface for receiving a user request for a music playlist. The user request is formulated into a search vector value. The claim also sets forth a plurality of feature vectors, which define feature vector values corresponding to perceived attributes of music and an inferential search engine which generates a playlist of selected music by comparing the plurality of feature vector values to the search vector value.

Applicants could no disclosure in Tsai, Tsurumi et al., or Contois for comparing feature vectors, which represent perceived music attributes, to user input parameters. Instead, Tsai discloses a host computer being used to transmit data files to stations in a network, in response to a user input. (Tsai, col. 1, lines 52-53 and 56-57). Tsurumi et al. discloses a method of managing information in a communication apparatus. (Tsurumi et al., col. 1, lines 55-60). Contois discloses a computer user interface that allows a user to select from media pieces stored in a database, where the user makes a selection from a pre-categorized data set. In contrast, Applicants' system set forth in Claims 1 and 15 allows a user to specify inputs regarding music attributes, which can then be compared to music including such attributes, such that a playlist is generated including the music. Since Tsai, Tsurumi et al., and Contois do not disclose the features of Applicants' invention as set forth in Claims 1 and 15, Claims 1 and 15 are allowable over the cited references.

Claim 20 sets forth a system for creating a music space, which includes a plurality of feature vectors defined by a first set of music attributes allocated to a music piece. The system also includes a modeling module which creates a plurality of music spaces by performing a similarity analysis of the feature vectors to establish boundaries of the music spaces.

Applicants could find no disclosure of a system for creating a music space as set forth in Applicants' Claim 20 in Tsai, Tsurumi et al. and Contois. Accordingly, Claim 20 is allowable over the cited references.

Claims 2-14 and 32 depend from Claim 1 and are allowable for at least the reasons as Claim 1. Claims 16, 17 and 19 depend from Claim 15 and are allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 15. Claims 21-31 depend from Claim 20 and are allowable for at least the same reasons as Claim 20.

New Claims

Claims 29-32 have been added to more completely claim the invention, with no new matter being added thereby. Support for Claims 29-32 can be found throughout the specification and drawings. Accordingly, Claims 29-32 are allowable.

CONCLUSION


For the above reasons, pending Claims 1-17 and 19-32 are now in condition for allowance and allowance of the application is hereby solicited. If the Examiner has any questions or concerns, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicant's Attorney at 949-718-5200.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on 1/12, 2001.


Attorney for Applicant(s)

1/12/01
Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,


Theodore P. Lopez
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 44,881

LAW OFFICES OF
SKJERVEN MORRILL
MACPHERSON LLP

25 METRO DRIVE
SUITE 700
SAN JOSE, CA 95110
(408) 453-9200
FAX (408) 453-7979